Vol. II. Numb. 92.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Scots *Plot. Of ſuch as Oppoſe the Houſe of* Hannover.

From **Saturday** February the 19th, to **Wednesday** February the 23d, 17c4.

Obſ. WELL, Honeſt *Country-man*, What News at *London*? How do the *People* look? How do they talk? re they full of *Politicks* and *State-Intrigues*?

Country-m. Yes, yes, Sir, thoſe that have the ſt to do with the *Government*, Talk the moſt out it. The *Non-Jurors*, and their Brethren the *kinites*, do make a woundy Noiſe at the *Coffee-uſes*, and fill our Ears with their Old Cant of *re Divino*; and the Honeſt *People*, they are quite n Mad with Notions of *Plots* and *Conſpiracies*. e Folk that Guarded the *Maſs-Houſes* in the ty, would do well now to look after the *Papiſts*, there are a Plaguy parcel of them in *London*.

Obſ. Don't let your Sawce-Pan run-over; re-mber I was *Proſecuted* but the laſt Summer for lking at this rate: *Robin Hog*, with all his *Po-* Briſtles, will be on your Back in a ſhort time.

Country-m. I don't care a Farthing for all the g and *Sows*, and all the *Rogues* and *Whores* in *gland*; I am for Queen *Ann* and the *Hannover* ceſſion; and neither *Scots* nor *Engliſh*, ſhall run ay with the *Liberties* of my Country. I am e of the *Body-Guard* of our *Conſtitution*, and I'll t with my Life before it ſhall receive any harm.

Obſ. Oh rare *Country-man!* thou art a *Precious rtal:* But prithee why in ſuch a *Paſſion*? Thou t met with ſomething extraordinary this rney.

Country-m. Paſſion, Quotha! 'Twould make any n Angry; theſe *Plots* ſet us beſide our ſelves; my part I am ready to Pay my *Contribution* ey towards the Repair of the Scaffold on *Tower l.* That *Noble Monument* of *Juſtice* ought to be t up *in Terrorem*; and to let the *Scots* know re they come that *Plot* againſt the *Engliſh Go-ment. Rope* take all theſe *Plotters:* They make a rumbling in the *Body-Politick*, as there is in *Guts*, after I have Dined on *Grey-Peaſe* and *n.* I thought what would come of it, when ard Miſtreſs *Tyrconnel*, *Perkins Governeſs*, was e over, and you loſt a Wager to me about her, did ſo; and never Paid me.

bſ. Prithee look me in the Face: Art thou ame Man? No ſure, the *Country-man's* turn'd *m-a-Bedlam*; a cloſe Room for thee, and a er to Shave thy Head.

ountry-m. If I am Mad, what's that to you or Body elſe? I am ſure 'tis enough to make One ſo, to be Frighted in every Reign with ; when a matter of Twenty Shillings worth emp, if rightly apply'd, would eaſe us of all Fears. Come, come, Maſter *Obſervator*, you no better than you ſhould be; why don't you the People of this *Plot*?

bſ. Would'ſt thou have me tell 'em what I t know? I never was a *Plotter* in all my Life; *Truth* and *Honeſty* why they don't ſpeak of they are in *Town*, when I am in the *Country*, ing only to take away the Life of a *Pheaſant artridge.*

ountry-m. Bleſs me! you'll make me Mad in-deed; Enquire of *Truth* and *Honeſty*! A couple of Shabby Weather-beaten Fellows, whoſe Words won't paſs for a half-penny in ſome Parts of the Town; the Folk won't ſo much as ſpeak to em: nay, the very *Hawkers* would not cry them about the Streets, if they did not get half in half by them. *Perkins* Apothecary, that Married the *Cow* to the *Bull*, has forbid all the Enemies of *England* to uſe that Paper, ſo much as by way of *Bumfodder*, for fear of being Infected: But if you won't ſatisfie me in Relation to this *Plot*, which makes my Head and my Heart ake; I wiſh you were in the *Billbows* of Sergeant *Powel.*

Obſ. Sit down, Honeſt *Country-man*, I'll endeavour to diſpoſſeſs thee of this *Plotting Spirit*; thou art certainly bewitch'd by a St. *Germains Hagg:* Smoak thy Pipe, and hearken Attentively to what I ſhall ſay.——I told thee already I know nothing of the Nature of this *Plot*; I can only gueſs at it by the Perſons concerned in it; and from one of them, without the help of the Stars, I can foretell that the Citizens will make a *Holy-Day* to *Tyburn* or *Tower-Hill*; and this Perſon is Honeſt *Robin Ferguſon*; I don't ſay he'll be Hang'd or Headed; for I don't know whether his Leaſe be yet expir'd; but if we look back into the *Plots* in which *Robin* has had a Finger in the Pye, we ſhall find ſome Body Hang'd in all of 'em, tho' he always found a way to Eſcape himſelf, and you know he bas been mention'd in *Plots* of all ſorts.

You may gueſs what a kind of a *Plot* this is, by another Perſon concern'd it it, *viz.* Captain *Fraizer*, who is an Intercommuned Perſon in *Scotland*, againſt whom a Commiſſion of *Fire* and *Sword*, has been lately Iſſued. He is Evidently Guilty of Diſloyalty to King *William*, whoſe Bread he Eat, and whoſe Commiſſion he bore; of *Robbery*, of *Aſſaulting*, *Impriſoning*, and Threatning to *Hang* Perſons of Quality; of a *Barbarous Rape* upon a Noble Lady; of open *Rebellion*, of *Forgery*, of turning *Papiſt*, and of Repeated and Continu'd *Treaſon* againſt the Queen and his *Country.*

Country-m. A couple of fine Fellows on my Honour! But, Pray Sir, how came this *Fraizer* into *England*?

Obſ. That I ſhan't ſay, nor who *Encouraged*, *Abetted* and *Subſiſted* him, whilſt he was in *England* or *Scotland.* My Buſineſs is to Diſpoſſeſs you of this *Plotting-Spirit*, and to let you ſee that our *Government* will ſtand unhurt amongſt all theſe *Plots* and *Contrivances* againſt it; and that it is impracticable to bring Young *Perkin* to what theſe People pretend.

I will now ſpeak ſeriouſly to the Point in hand. I know not how far God, for the *Sins* of a Nation, may give a People over to *Stupidity* and *Infatuation.* But it ſeems to me Morally impoſſible for the *Pretender* to be, that in *England*, which theſe Men intend for him. He's a *Brat*, of whoſe Title our *Laws* have no *Cognizance*, he is an *Intercommuned Out-Law*, *Abjur'd* by Act of Parliament: In ſhort,

ſhort, he's *No-Body*, he's a *Political Non-Entity*, a *French Gew-Gaw*, to pleaſe *Engliſh Non-jurors*, and an Inviſible Charm, that keeps up the hearts of thoſe, who againſt *Hope* believe in *Hope*.

The St. *Germains* Pretender can never come to the *Throne* under any Limitations; for 'tis High *Treaſon* for any One to *Correſpond* with him; he can never come to the *Crown*, but by a *French* Power, which makes him a *Tyrant* the firſt day he Arrives to it; as coming to the Government by the Power of the *Sword*, and being under no *Reſtrictions* of *Government*, *Limitations* or *Obligations* to the *People*; and do you think ſuch a One would not be a fine Spark to Govern *Engliſhmen*, whoſe very *Stomachs* ought to riſe at the *Suggeſtion*?

Plots, tho' they are often troubleſome to the *State*, yet when diſcover'd, they tend much to the *Common Good*; for hereby the Nations Enemies are detected, and mark'd to the *Common People*. And ſuch *Plots* as are diſcovered in the *Embrio*, before they are matured for *Action*, are the moſt Beneficial in the Diſcovery, for ſeveral Reaſons.

1. Becauſe the miſchief deſigned by them is prevented, and the Effect Ceaſes by a timely diſcovery of the Cauſe; as the Patient is half cured, when the cauſe of the Diſtemper is found out.

2. Becauſe the Parties engaged in the deſign, are known to be dangerous Inſtruments in the hands of Princes, and may be laid aſide by way of *Precaution* of future Dangers.

3. When a *Plot* is diſcovered but in Part, and but ſome of the *Combinators* are known, the *Plot* will appear like a *Hydra*, and when one or two heads of the *Monſter* are taken off, the *Common People* will be looking for more; they'l always be Suſpicious, which will keep them on their Guard; they'l be raking in the Embers to ſee what ſparks of Fire remain concealed; and will not be taken by Surprize.

The old *Roman* Maxim in times of Difficulty to the *State*, ſtill ſupports my Spirits, *Nunquam de Republica deſperandum eſt*. I will never deſpair of the Safety of *England*, tho' the United Powers of Men and Devils are Engaged againſt it. Our Circumſtances have often brought us into a State of Deſpair; yet even in our Low Condition, *Providence* has appear'd on our Side, and our *State* has been recovered, as a Man riſen from the *Dead*; the Plot againſt our *Liberties* by *Papiſts*, was carried on in more than one Reign, and it took Effect in the Reign of King *James* the Second, who being miſled by *Popiſh Council*, the Pope ſat at the Helm of the *Engliſh Government*, our *Laws*, our *Liberties*, our *Holy Religion*, the Comforts of *Soul* and *Body*, were Precarious to *Popiſh Councils*, and a Standing Army, our King, our Garriſons, our Strong Holds, our Fleets, and all our *National Securities*, were in the Poſſeſſion, or under the Management of our Profeſs'd Enemies; yet the *Wiſe Governour* of the *Univerſe*, wrought Deliverance for a *Sinful People*, by means out of Humane View, and contrary to Humane Expectation: The very Legions rais'd for the Deſtruction of our *Rights*, by a Turn of *Providence* were made our *Security*; *Heaven* Oppoſed the Deſigns againſt us, and gave us occaſion of Eternal Thankfulneſs; but like Baſe Ingrates, we ſoon forgot the *Brick-Kilns* of *Ægypt*, our *Wilderneſs Condition*, and loath'd the *Manna* of a Gentle Reign.

We may expect like Plots under this *Government*; for *Popiſh Policy* never leaves a Stone unturned, its Indefatigable, and the Plot for the *Extirpation* of the *Northern Hereſie*, as they call it, is of a long ſtanding. But, Bleſſed be God, we are great meaſure provided againſt their Attem we are out of Danger of any more *Popiſh Succeſ* our Crown is ſettled in a *Proteſtant Line*, and made *High Treaſon* to Speak or Write againſt *Settlement*.

Country-m. Is it ſo, Maſter *Obſervator*? Then take Care of ſome People at a certain *Perkin* Coffee-Houſe, that ſpeak much againſt the *nover Succeſſion*. There are abundance of People about Town; 'tis not long ſince Ma *Counceller* the *Lawyer*, who was Fined Marks at *Lincoln Aſſizes* in the late Reign, Scandalous Words againſt King *William* of G *ous Memory*, came to a Noted Publick Houſe the *May-pole* in the *Strand*, where is Excellent Liquor, and where the People Drink like *F* This Spark happen'd into Company with Honeſt Gentlemen, who after they had Drank Queens Health, they Drank a Health to the *nover Succeſſion*, which Maſter *Councellour* A lutely refuſed, and taking up his Cloak in a Paſſion, left the Company Abruptly, wit *G——d D——n me*, he would Drink no Health; upon which the Company Hooted down Stairs; which ſo *Exaſperated* him, tha came the next Night, and told the Man of Houſe, that he deſigned to ſettle a *Loyal Clu* his Houſe, which now is accordingly Settled.

Obſ. A pretty Story: So this *Loyal-Club* ſiſts of ſuch as oppoſe the Houſe of *Hannover*: have many of theſe *Club-men* in Town; pri carry a Load of Oaken Towels to that Ho for the uſe of thoſe worthy Gentlemen that quent it, who are for the Houſe of *Hannover*; a fine paſs we are come to, that ſuch who are the *Succeſſion* in the *Proteſtant Line*, muſt be counted *Diſloyal*; This is imputed to me as greateſt Crime, by the *Impudent Jacobite Scrib* of the Times. But we have honeſt Men eno in *England* to ſtand by the *Queen* and the *P ſtant Succeſſion*, we have yet our Liberties in p tion, and if we part with them, 'tis our fault; I'm ſure I ſhall keep my Intreſt in t as long as I live, for to me 'tis more Elegible die a Freeman, than live a Slave. —— C Honeſt *Country man*, a Health to the *Queen*, the *Houſe of Hannover*, in one Bumper, and t to Bed.

Advertiſements.

THE **Athenian Spy**: Diſcovering the Se Letters, which were ſent to the *Athenian Society*, by the Ingenious Ladies of the Three Kingdoms, relating to the *Ma ment of their* Affections. Being a Curious Syſtem of *Love* Platonick and Natural. I. The *Principles of Love*, accordi Plato's Idea, in an intire Courſe of Platonick Courtſhip, bet ſeveral Philoſophick *Gentlemen* and *Ladies*, with the Form of tonick *Matrimony*. II. *The way of a Man with a Maid*. Or, *Whole Art of* Amour, with all its *Intrigues* and *Amuſements* its Conſummation in Enjoyment; with private Inſtructions to Bride and Bridegroom, and a Modeſt Eſſay on due Benevol or the ſeaſonable uſe of the Marriage Bed. Likewiſe Rules taking Behaviour, during the Conrſe of a Coujugal Life, in O to the greater Happineſs thereof; alſo a Character of ſeveral traordinary Gentlemen and Ladies, recommended to the Un ried; with an Invention for the helping off of old Maids, a project of an Office for the Unmarrying ſuch as are unequally ked, with divers other Curious particulars. The whole inter with Great Variety of Poems, being an intire Collection of *Love Secrets*, Communicated to the *Athenian Society*. Printed *R. Halſey*, at the *Bible* in the *poultry*, the *Corner* of the *Old* price 2*s*. 6*d*.

THE Exorbitant Grants of King *William* the III. Examin'd Queſtion'd. Shewing, The Nature of *Grants* in Succe and Elective Monarchies; and proving by Law and Hiſt that *Crown-Lands* are Inalienable: That *Reſumptions* were mon all the World over; and likewiſe ſhewing, That w a Prince hath no Hereditary Title, he can make no Hered Right. And that *Kings* ſet up by Parliament, can diſpoſe of no but with the Conſent of Parliament, which renders *William* Thirds Grants Totally void. With Reflections on each Para Price 1*s* Sold by *J. How*, at the *ſeven ſtars* in *Talbot C* in Gracechurch ſtreet.

London, Printed and Sold by *J. How*, at the *Seven-Stars*, in *Talbot-Court*, in *Grace-Church-Street*, 1